

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]  
Current Handling: n/a  
Document Number: 1977BUENOS08489

Page: 1

Channel: n/a

Case Number: 200000044

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 08489 111314Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 L-03 H-01 CIAE-00 INR-07  
NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 INRE-00 SSO-00 /033 W  
-----075046 111316Z /43

O 111244Z NOV 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3159  
INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 8489

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)  
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS  
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director  
(X) Release ( ) Excise ( ) Deny

Exemption(s):  
Declassify ( ) In Part (X) In Full CONTROL  
( ) Classify as ( ) Extend as ( ) Downgrade to  
Date Declassify on Reason

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SHUM, SOP, AR  
SUBJECT: SERRAT RELEASED

REF: BUENOS AIRES 8488

AP REPORTED OSCAR SERRAT WAS RELEASED IN EARLY MORNING  
NOVEMBER 11 AND IS NOW SAFE AT HOME. AP PROVIDED USIS  
WITH DETAILS OF HIS DETENTION.

SERRAT WAS INTERCEPTED BY TWO MEN IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES AS HE LEFT  
HOME NOVEMBER 10 FOR WORK. THEY BUNDLED HIM INTO A CAR  
WHERE HE WAS BLINDFOLDED AND HANDCUFFED. AFTER A ONE  
HOUR JOURNEY, HE WAS LED INTO AN UNDERGROUND ROOM, HOODED  
AND LEFT ALONE FOR APPROXIMATELY 2 HOURS. HE WAS THEN  
INTERROGATED ABOUT HIS RELATIONS WITH RODOLFO WALSH, A  
WELL-KNOWN LEFTIST ARGENTINE WRITER, AND ABOUT THE  
COMMUNIST SUBVERSIVE GROUPS OFTEN SEND TO THE  
INTERNATIONAL NEWS AGENCIES. AROUND 11 P.M. HE WAS PERMITTED  
TO CALL HIM HOME AND OFFICE. SHORTLY THEREAFTER HE WAS  
DRIVEN, STILL BLINDFOLDED, TO A SPOT NEAR HIS  
HOME AND RELEASED. SERRAT BELIEVES HE WAS HELD AT A  
MILITARY OR POLICE INSTALLATION JUST OUTSIDE THE  
FEDERAL CAPITAL.

PAGE 02 BUENOS 08489 111314Z

COMMENT: GIVEN THE NATURE OF SERRAT'S INTERROGATION,

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 1

UNCLASSIFIED

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Current Class: [REDACTED]  
Current Handling: n/a  
Document Number: 1977BUENOS08489

Page: 2

Channel: n/a

Case Number: 200000044

IT APPEARS HIS DETENTION WAS A "NORMAL" ONE AND NOT INTENDED TO COINCIDE WITH AMBASSADOR CASTRO'S ARRIVAL TO EMBARRASS THE GOA (AS SOME SPECULATED) OR SPECIFICALLY TO INTIMIDATE THE MEDIA. AP BUREAU CHIEF BILL NICHOLSON THANKED THE EMBASSY FOR ITS QUICK, WHOLE-HEARTED SUPPORT AND EXPRESSED HIS CONVICTION THAT ONLY THE FAST, HIGH-LEVEL CAMPAIGN THAT WAS ORGANIZED ON SERRAT'S BEHALF MADE HIS RELEASE POSSIBLE. CASTRO

[REDACTED]  
NNN

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 2

UNCLASSIFIED